

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of the Commissioner

Memorandum

TO: Superintendents of Schools

DATE: 9/12/05

FROM: Betty J. Sternberg, Ph.D.
Commissioner

RE: An Invitation for Submissions of Student Prose, Poetry, and Art from the Commission on Children.

The Connecticut Commission on Children has issued a call for student writing and art on themes related to the tragic events of September 11, 2001. They hope to create opportunities for students, individually and in their classrooms, to reflect on what happened on that day. Students are challenged to use prose, poetry, and art to try to express their feelings and look for lessons learned.

A team of state leaders and artists will review the entries. Students will be selected to present their works at the State Capitol in late fall. At this event, state leaders will discuss the steps they have taken to ensure the safety of children in the aftermath of terrorism or natural disaster.

The themes emphasized by the Commission resonate with many of our educational goals: diversity, civic leadership by youth, public safety, and pride in democracy. The more recent devastation and tragedy brought by hurricane “Katrina” add new reasons to think about homeland security in a broader and more contemporary context.

Please share the attached materials with your staff and encourage students from all of your schools to participate :

[RULES AND GUIDELINES](#)